GUIDE TO STH 23 PLANNING PROCESS

Fall 1999: State Highway 23 enumerated for construction, upgrade to four lanes

June 2001: Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), District 3 kick-off meeting, WisDOT staff assigned to project

December 2001: First public officials meeting to involve local governments

January 2002: WisDOT and Regional Planning staff begin to collect information and make additional contacts with local officials regarding the corridor study

February 2002: WisDOT/Local officials meetings are held to discuss the scope and schedule for the study

March 2002: Two public informational meetings to present and discuss corridor study (UW-Fond du Lac, Greenbush Town Hall)

April 2002: First STH 23 Advisory Committee meeting to review alternatives developed by WisDOT

June 2002: Second STH 23 Advisory Committee to review refinements and select alternatives for study

July 2002: WisDOT and other state and Federal agency staff meet to discuss alternatives under study

September 2002: STH 23 Newsletter #1: WisDOT continues to work with other state and federal operating agencies to evaluate the cost and impacts of each alternative

We Are Here

October 2002: Third STH 23 Advisory Committee to review and discuss alternative costs and impacts

November 2002: Public informational meetings to present plan alternatives and assessment

December 2002: Second STH 23 Newsletter: WisDOT refines alternatives based on public information meeting

January 2003: Fourth STH 23 Advisory Committee meeting, select preferred alternative

Spring 2003: Public informational meeting to present recommended alternative

Summer 2003: Third STH 23 Newsletter: Recommended alternative is selected, highway design begins

STH 23 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Roger Laning, Highway Commissioner Sheboygan County
Ernest Winters, Highway Commissioner Fond du Lac County
Shannon Haydin, Director of Planning Sheboygan County
Sam Tobias, Director of Planning Fond du Lac County
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Highway 23 Newsletter # 1

(September 2002)

(Fond du Lac to Plymouth)

The Highway 23 newsletter is one method to inform and update the public about the State Trunk Highway (STH) 23 corridor study. You may have attended a public information meeting, seen articles or information in newspapers, or heard reports on local radio. Still, information about the project is limited and many are interested, or at least curious about, the long range plans for the highway. East Central and Bay-Lake Regional Plan-ning Commissions are working with local governments and the Highway 23 Advisory Committee to promote and solicit public input and participation in the long-range planning activities for the STH 23 corridor. The newsletter includes a number of contacts from WisDOT, regional planning staff, local officials, and citizens who are participating in and representing the public as part of the STH 23 study. If you have comments or questions, please contact us.

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HIGHWAY 23 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The 18-member STH 23 Advisory Committee was selected to provide consistent local review of WisDOT highway alternatives at three to five Committee meetings over the next year. The Committee's role is to ensure local representation for the entire STH 23 corridor, from Fond du Lac to Sheboygan, with emphasis on the 2-lane portion between Plymouth and Fond du Lac.

The Committee is comprised of Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties' local government staff, elected officials, citizens and business interest potentially impacted by future changes to STH 23. Committee members were asked to be informed local contacts for citizens with questions, comments, or concerns about the STH 23 project and have agreed to have their names and contact information used in newsletters and public involvement/information activities.

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HIGHWAY 23 STUDY UPDATE

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The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is evaluating several options to expand the 2-lane portion of State Trunk Highway (STH) 23 to a 4-lane divided highway between Fond du Lac and Plymouth, in Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties. Federal regulations and guidance mandates that several options, or alternatives, be considered as part of any major highway project. A series of local official, advisory and public informational meetings will continue over the next several months to solicit public input and select a recommended alternative for the new highway.

Property owners within the defined study areas have been contacted by the Department of Transportation, requesting access to perform environmental, archeological and agricultural assessments. The study areas are larger than needed for the actual highway, to allow some flexibility in avoiding specific sites of concern. Environmental, agricultural, and socioeconomic evaluations are currently being conducted on the study alternatives. WisDOT will identify environmental and socioeconomic factors, in terms of impacts and costs for each alternative, and will be presenting the findings at upcoming public informational meetings.

WisDOT is currently evaluating variations of three alignment alternatives between Fond du Lac and Plymouth. <u>Alternatives A and B</u> use the current alignment and would construct the new highway on or near the existing roadway. <u>Alternative E</u>, which showed the new highway south of existing STH 23 from the proposed USH 151 bypass and over the ledge east from Fond du Lac, was eliminated during Advisory Committee meetings (XXXXXed out on the illustration). <u>Alternatives D and F</u> are concepts to construct the highway on new alignment, about ¼ of a mile north of Chickadee Drive. Any combination of the alternatives can be considered as part of the corridor study.

